Export of Mica and Mica Products

100. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value and weight of mica and mica products exported in the year before and after the decanalisation in 1990;

(b) what are the details of employment in mica industry;

(c) whether there is any improvement after decanalisation as promised; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to review the steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The value and weight of mica and mica products exported in the year before and after the decanalisation of processed mica in October, 1990 are estimated to have been as under:—

	Qty.	Value
	tonnes	crores
Oct' 89-Sept' 90	43515	54·57
Oct' 90-Sept' 91	37138	53·55

(b) Due to decentralised nature of operations in mica industry, details of employment in mica industry are not available.

(c) and (d) Export performance of the mica industry is reviewed periodically.

Increase in the country's exports

101. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the lifting of all trade controls and the introduction of partial convertibility of the rupee far ahead of schedule, it has given a push to exports of the country;

(b) if so, the extent to which the exports are likely to be increased;

(c) whether Government also propose to further liberalise the trade policy; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The initiatives taken in the new Import-Export Policy and the introduction of partial convertibility of the rupee are expected to boost India's exports. There is however, a time lag for the new initiatives to have full impact on our exports. It is also difficult to precisely indicate the extent the exports are likely to increase as the level of exports depends on a large number of factors such as global trading environment, economic environment in our partner countries, external demand for products and domestic factors like availability of surplus for exports, agricultural production, industrial production, inflation rate, domestic demand etc.

(c) and (d) Export and Import Policy is under constant review. Necessary changes are made in the policy in public interest as and when the need arises.

Trade between India and Russian Federation

102. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of the signing of the protocol no trade has yet been started between India and Russian Federation; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Trade under the provisions of the Indo-Russian protocol for 1992